

DOCKET NUMBER
PROPOSED RULE PR 50
(64FR22580)

DOCKETED
DATE

'99 OCT -4 12:00

Tennessee Valley Authority, 1101 Market Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

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ADD

John A. Scalice
Chief Nuclear Officer and Executive Vice President, TVA Nuclear

September 21, 1999

The Honorable Greta J. Dicus
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint, North
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852-2732

Dear Chairman Dicus:

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY (TVA) - ENDORSEMENT OF 10 CFR 50.55A
SUPPLEMENTAL PROPOSED RULE (64 FED. REG. 22580)

I really appreciate the time we were able to spend together on August 20, 1999. While we discussed a number of important topics, we did not discuss the proposed rulemaking to eliminate the requirement for licensees to revise their inservice inspection and testing programs beyond a baseline edition and addenda of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code. The NRC should be complimented for the proposed rulemaking in this area. Reconsideration of this requirement is warranted because there is no substantial increase in safety commensurate with the cost of implementation.

Since we have talked, I have learned that ASME, individuals from the industry, and the NRC staff involved in ASME activities have communicated views opposing the proposed rule. Nevertheless, rulemaking consistent with the provisions of the backfitting rule and a demonstrated threshold of safety improvement represents sound regulatory policy.

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The Honorable Greta J. Dicus

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I want to let you know personally that I support the proposed rule to eliminate the 120-month update requirement in 10 CFR 50.55a, *Codes and Standards*.

Sincerely,



John A. Scalice

cc: Commissioner Nils J. Diaz
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint, North
11555 Rockville Pike
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Commissioner Edward McGaffigan, Jr.
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